



Director of
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*Tuesday
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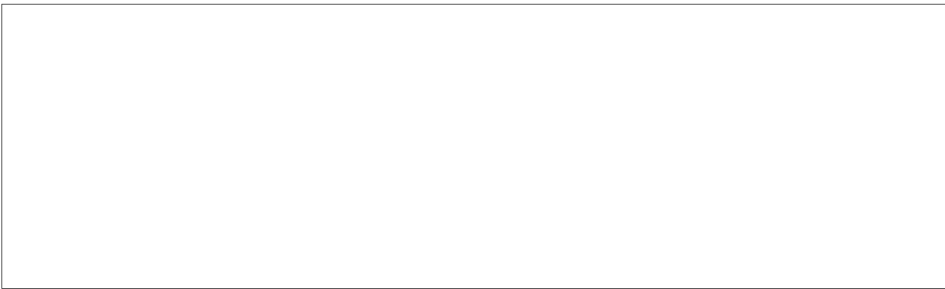
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CHAD: Military Developments

Fighting continues around Abeche, with the two sides issuing conflicting reports on the battle. [redacted]

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President Bongo of Gabon and President Houphouet-Boigny of Ivory Coast have again urged the US and France to help stop the dissidents. The Foreign Ministers of Morocco and Niger also have urged more direct action and expressed disappointment at Western efforts to block Libyan involvement in Chad. [redacted]

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Comment: If the government's forces are defeated in the east, Habre and his most loyal followers may withdraw into Sudan and try to wage a guerrilla campaign. The President and most of his lieutenants apparently have left N'Djamena to lead the troops personally. Habre may have pulled most of his troops away from the defense of N'Djamena, leaving an inadequate force to defend the capital. [redacted]

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President Mobutu presumably hopes France and the US will provide greater military aid to Zaire in return for his support to Habre. Mobutu will probably make a case for such assistance when he meets with US officials during a private visit to Washington early next month. [redacted]

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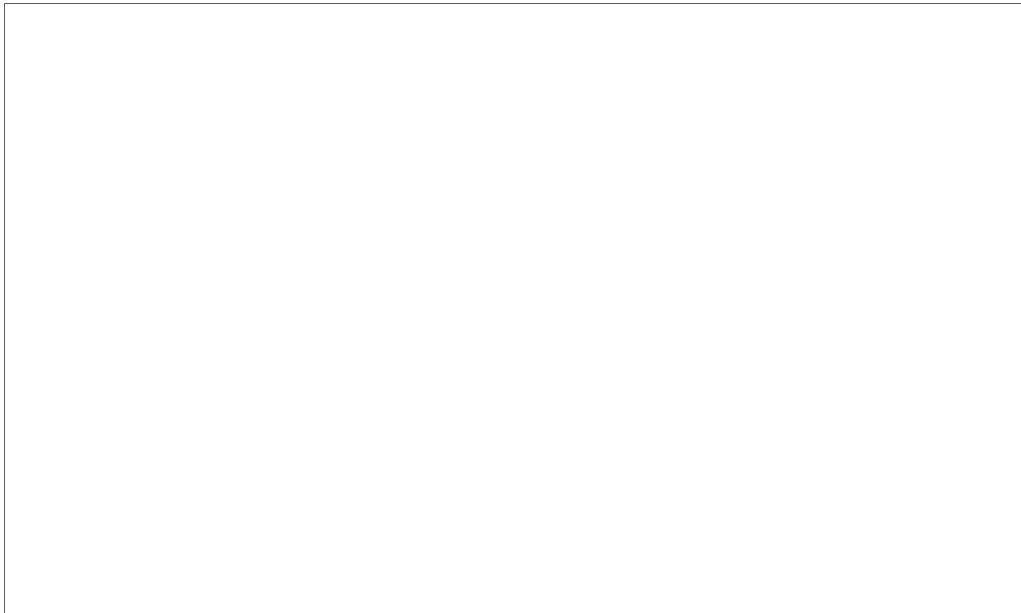
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**EL SALVADOR: Objections to Draft Constitution**

Political objections to several articles in the draft constitution, particularly those dealing with agricultural reform, may delay its ratification and cause postponement of the elections. Some critics believe the new constitution would reverse the entire agricultural reform process. They object to articles that would limit the size of the cooperative farms and end the land-to-tiller program. The Christian Democratic Party is demanding revisions in the draft before it will agree to ratification.

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Comment: The government had initially hoped the constitution would be approved by late this month, but prolonged debate over the contentious articles probably will delay ratification. Although the articles bear the unmistakable stamp of the extreme rightist members of the drafting commission, they also reflect a distaste for land reform by representatives of some of the other parties. Nevertheless, the Christian Democrats are likely to obtain some modifications in order to salvage the agrarian reform program.

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POLAND: Lifting Martial Law

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Embassy reports, however, that some officials are saying martial law will not be lifted until early September. Meanwhile, on Saturday the regime's Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth called for an end to martial law and an amnesty for violators, including those still at large.

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Comment: The Patriotic Movement's appeal, which is similar to one made last December just before the "suspension" of martial law, suggests a move is imminent. Security concerns may lead the authorities to announce a decision this month but defer carrying it out until later. The formal lifting of martial law will not appreciably affect the regime's ability to maintain control, and it may encourage some Western governments to push harder for improving relations with Warsaw.

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USSR-EASTERN EUROPE: New Soviet Ambassadors

Moscow's announcement over the weekend that it is replacing its Ambassadors in Poland and Bulgaria may foreshadow similar changes in other countries in the area. TASS announced that Aleksander Aksenov, who was premier of the Belorussian Republic, has been assigned to Poland, and Leonid Grekov, former party second secretary in Uzbekistan, has been appointed Ambassador to Bulgaria. Earlier this year a Soviet diplomat told US officials that General Secretary Andropov planned to replace all Soviet ambassadors in "socialist" countries.

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Comment: Three Soviet ambassadors to Eastern Europe have been replaced in the last two months, the first being the Ambassador to East Germany. The Ambassadors departing Poland and Bulgaria have served shorter terms than did their predecessors, suggesting that the move may indeed be part of a shakeup. Although none of the appointees are known to be close to Andropov, he may see such changes as a way to put his own stamp on policy toward Eastern Europe. He also may use them to exert influence on personnel appointments, particularly those involving key officials at the republic level.

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PLO-USSR: Possible Visit to Moscow by Arafat

Several Palestinian officials have told the press that PLO chief Arafat will go to Moscow this week for talks with Soviet leaders. The Palestinian news service announced yesterday that PLO "foreign minister" Qaddumi is in the Soviet capital for meetings with Foreign Minister Gromyko. Arafat last visited Moscow in January, when he met with General Secretary Andropov. Salah Khalaf, Arafat's top deputy, made two trips there last month to discuss the mutiny within Fatah.

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Comment: Qaddumi may be preparing an agenda for Arafat, or he may serve as a substitute for the PLO leader. If the Soviets receive Arafat, it would be their clearest signal yet that they stand behind him in the struggle against the Syrian-supported mutineers. Moscow is particularly disturbed by the rift between Arafat and Syrian President Assad, and it probably would urge Arafat to reach a compromise with Damascus. The visit would irritate Assad, and the Soviets would be likely to portray it publicly as an attempt at mediation rather than a full endorsement of Arafat's position.

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**UK: Concern About INF Basing**

Officials in the UK are becoming concerned that public statements regarding INF missile delivery dates could provide the peace movement with targets for antinuclear demonstrations this fall. The British want to say as little as possible about delivery schedules and to postpone a basing announcement until after the first missiles arrive in December. They believe, however, that it will be difficult to maintain this strategy throughout the fall and that it will require coordination with the US, West Germany, and Italy. The British plan to raise the question of how to handle public statements on this subject later this month in Brussels at the meeting of the Special Consultative Group.

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Comment: London's concern is likely to increase as a result of recent press speculation that technical and political problems may lead to delays in Pershing II deployment in West Germany—leaving the UK as the only ally to receive INF in December. The Kohl government, however, remains committed to deployment on schedule. Foreign Secretary Howe says that any delay in West German basing might start an irreversible move away from INF deployments in other basing countries.

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